A moſt wonderfull, and true report, the like neuer hearde of before, of diuerſe vnknowne Foules: hauing the Fethers about their heads, and neckes, like to the fryſled fore-tops, Lockes, and great Ruffes, now in vſe among men, and *Wemen: latelie taken at* Crowley *in the Countie of Lyncolne.*

1586.

I Preſent thine eyes (friendly Reader) with a Spectacle leſſe fitting the Penſill of a Paynter, or the pen euen of Plinie himſelfe, than a ſubiect, the rarenes thereof, worthy a contemplatiue and conſiderate obſeruation. The ſignification whereof, had it ſometimes happened in Ægypt, Syria, Greece, Rome, or euen now amongſt the Heathen people, would & ſhould no doubt not a little trauel, & that not vnprofitably, their Wyzards, Caltars, Oracles, and Altars. But we or many of vs, are lately growne ſuch naturall Philoſophers, in Argumentes of like

Prodigies (if I may so terme them) that we forme our selues, and many others naturall, or at the least wise negligent Fooles in not reuerently admyring them. Euen the dreames of Pharo interpreted by Ioseph, became profitable to Ægypt, and to all Israell. Neither did Balthasar tremble without cause at the hand-wryting or euer it was expounded by Daniel. Neither yet in vayne shined the Starre in the East, directing the three wise men to our Sauiour in Bethlem. Infinite are the Histories autenticall and prophane of Ghosts, Beastes, Byrds, Birthes, Motions, Flames, Visions, and such like other, presaging and foreshowing the wel or ill threatned to some Estates or particular persons, or, as it were, dumb by preaching reformation in some abuses: which for breuitie omitting, I haste to a most rare and true reporte, of a most straunge and wonderfull sight, happening of late dayes euen in England, seene and certified by many personages of great authoritie, worship, and credite. Of which it thus followeth. In the yeare of our Lord God 1586. within the parish of Crowley nere adioyning to the pastures of the Lordship of Hatfild, in the Countie of Lyncolne, one Richard Wallar, and Richard Preston, of the same

same parish of Crowley, having set certaine Lime-twigges, intangled and caught in the same seuen great Fowles, all of one bignes, & of intermixt coloures: the like whereof were neuer seen or heard of in any Countrie, by any man having hitherto seene them or their pictures: which being liuely in their true coloures purtrayed by one Blackborne, a Paynter in Yorke, at the procurement of the right worshipfull Sir Henry Lee Knight, are diuersly amongest diuers persons dispersed. Three of the same Foules were brought and presented to the same Sir Henry Lee, then lying at his brothers house at Hatfild, in Yorke-shire. The Fethers on their heads and Fronts grewe and stood out, not vnlike to the frysled heire of men or women: and the Fethers about their necke, being of diuers coloures, grew and stood vp very high, euen, and formally like vnto great Ruffes: and were hilde vp with stiffe quilles, as it were Wyers or Supporters, such as are now commonly vsed of our Gallants. These Foules going loose, seemed so careles of their libertie and to escape, that (though threatned by shaking and shouing with the handes, or otherwise) they would not shrinke from, or shunne any person: retayning

still

ſtill as it were one and the ſame countenaunce, their vſe was all three in ranke-wiſe, and with great ſtatelineſſe, to walke diuers turnes vp and downe in the Hall, and then eftſoones to ſtay and drawe all their heades and billes together, ſtanding ſo a long time, as it were in conſultation or counſell of ſome weightie matter, and then to fall againe to walking, refuſing to take, and not ſeeming to make account of any meate, which they were oftentimes offered. In this order they continued vntill they all three dyed one after an other, about three dayes after their taking. When they were dead, not any man with both his handes could ſcarſe ſtirre one of their Fethers about their neckes. Diuers Foulers were ſent for to ſee them, but neither could they tel what Foules they were, or euer had ſeene or heard of the like.

What theſe Foules were, what their flight hither, what their taking heere, their forme, Fethers, coloure, or order before remembred, ſhould ſignifie, I cannot prognoſticate: onely this I obſerue, that what ſeemed chiefly ſupernaturall in them, the like, in reſpecte of our Ornamentes, is ſuperaboundant in vs. It were thinke I an happy error (if it be an

error

erroꝛ) that our fryſled and ouer-ruffed Dames, would conſtrue theſe Fooles to bee fryſled and ruffed Diuels: and I wiſh that the repoꝛte of theſe monſtrous Bydes might admoniſh ſome Ruffleꝛs, that themſelues are monſtrouſly men. Let vs at length remember, that our Creatoꝛ hath foꝛmed vs, not ſo to deforme our ſelues, being Images of his owne ſimilitude. A few thinges (alas) ſuffiſe nature, and euery thing ſuperfluous is meerely vicious. Naked were we boꝛne, and naked in effect ſhall we be buried: and then onely was man altogether happy, when man liued altogether naked, the very ſight therefoꝛe of apparel ſhould woꝛke vs to bee ſo farre off from Pꝛide and oſtentation thereof, that remembꝛing the ſame to be onely the Couerinｇes of our ſhame, and the tragicall Badges of Adam his tranſgreſſion, and ſucceſſiuely from him of our oꝛiginal ſinne, we Swan-like, at the ſight of ſuch our blacke feete ſhoulde deiect our vaine and pꝛoud Plumes: with this reſolution, that the bꝛaueſt are but as bloſſomes, that the longeſt liuer ſhall dye: and then, that the loueliеſt Creature, ſhall lye euen as the lothſomeſt carcas: and our ſilken bodyes ſhall become ſtincking Carrions.

But

But least I should rather seem to preach (the which I cannot) than to reporte a Prodigie (for so I conceaue it) I conclude, that howsoeuer credulous or incredulous Reader shal, or shall not, make profit of this our monstrous Spectacle, being far straunger than it is heere paynted or penned, assured I am, that more Eyes can witnesse it, than that any doubtes or cauilles can refel it, or I shall neede wordes to affirme it. Farewel: and flie Pryde.

Penes auctorem sit fides.

The names of diuers right worshipfull and credible Persons, hauing seene the foresaid Foules whilest they liued, and after they were dead.

William Bonner, Gentleman verifieth this to be true.

Thomas Mall Baylife of Hatfielde,

Ambrose Ransford gentleman and attendant vnto Sir Henrie Lee witnesseth the same.

M. Thomas Rickard.

M. Simond Wormley.

M. Thomas Pamer. With infinite others.

At London,

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